IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-15 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium encoded with a program ~~used to direct~~ that when executed causes a computer to ~~use~~ perform a knowledge processing method ~~for use~~ with reference to a knowledge processing system formed by a product's hierarchical structure of ~~knowledge~~ its components information relating to a designed event based on a ~~class~~ product's development code name as a super class and a relationship between ~~classes~~ components as classes, comprising:

storing in a database the product's development code name as a super class having a name inclusively describing a component as a class of the ~~knowledge~~ component information, the ~~class~~ component, and the relationship between the ~~classes~~ components; ~~and~~

detecting a ~~class~~ component relating to the product's development code name as a super class stored in the database[[,]];

generating a relationship between the ~~classes~~ components by an inference based on multivalued logic[[,]]; and

configuring ~~a knowledge~~ the product's hierarchical structure from information stored in the database and the relationship between the ~~classes~~ components obtained by the inference.

2. (Currently Amended) The program according to claim 1, wherein the relationship between the ~~classes~~ components includes a weight which weights a relationship between ~~classes~~ components obtained by the inference based on the multivalued logic and a hierarchical structure.

3. (Currently Amended) The program according to claim 1, wherein in ~~the inferring step~~ said generating, a new ~~class~~ component is generated when the new ~~class~~ component can be generated to associate ~~classes~~ components by the inference, and is associated with another ~~class~~ component so that ~~knowledge~~ the new component's information can be structured.

4. (Currently Amended) The program according to claim 1, wherein in ~~the inferring step~~ said generating, a temporal inference on a ~~knowledge~~ component's information structure described in a ~~class~~ component group is conducted and a relationship between ~~classes with a change with~~ components changing over time ~~of~~ with described ~~knowledge~~ component's information taken into account, is included in the ~~knowledge~~ component's information structure.

5. (Currently Amended) The program according to claim 1, wherein on a part of a user who uses ~~the knowledge~~ a component's information structure generated on a part of a designer, ~~a knowledge~~ the component's information structure designed on the part of the designer is restructured by an inference using multivalued logic according to information about ~~a super class~~ the product's development code name describing the ~~knowledge~~ hierarchical structure and a ~~class~~ component's information group.

6. (Currently Amended) A knowledge processing method for use with an information ~~knowledge~~ processing system formed by a structure of ~~knowledge~~ information relating to a designed event based on a ~~class~~ component and a relationship between ~~classes~~ components, comprising:

storing in a database a product's development code name as a super class having a name inclusively describing a ~~class~~ component's information of the knowledge, the ~~class~~ component's information, and the relationship between the ~~classes~~ components' information; ~~and~~

detecting a ~~class~~ component relating to the product's development code name as a super class stored in the database[[,]];

generating a relationship between the ~~classes~~ components by an inference based on multivalued logic[[,]]; and

configuring an information ~~knowledge~~ structure from information stored in the database and the relationship between the ~~classes~~ components obtained by the inference.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the relationship between the ~~classes~~ components includes a weight which weights a relationship between ~~classes~~ components obtained by the inference based on the multivalued logic and a hierarchical components' information structure.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein in ~~the inferring step~~ said generating, a new ~~class~~ component is generated when the new ~~class~~ component can be generated to associate ~~classes~~ components by the inference, and is associated with another ~~class~~ component so that ~~knowledge~~ information can be structured.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein in ~~the inferring step~~ said generating, a temporal inference on a knowledge structure described in a ~~class~~ component group is conducted and a relationship between ~~classes with a change with~~ components changing over time ~~of with~~ described ~~knowledge~~ component's information taken into account, is included in the ~~knowledge~~ component's information structure.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein on a part of a user who uses the ~~knowledge~~ components' information structure generated on a part of a designer, a ~~knowledge~~ components information structure designed on the part of the designer is restructured by an inference using multivalued logic according to information about a super class describing the knowledge structure and a ~~class~~ component group.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~knowledge~~ components information processing system formed by a hierarchical structure of ~~knowledge~~ components information relating to a designed event based on a ~~class~~ component and a relationship between ~~classes~~ components, comprising:

a storage unit storing in a database product's development code name as a super class having a product's development code name inclusively describing a ~~class~~ component of the ~~knowledge~~ component information, the ~~class~~ component, and the relationship between the ~~classes~~ components; and

an inference unit detecting a class relating to a super class stored in the database, generating a relationship between the ~~classes~~ components by an inference based on multivalued logic, and configuring a knowledge structure from information stored in the database and the relationship between the ~~classes~~ components obtained by the inference.

12. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 11, wherein the relationship between the ~~classes~~ components includes a weight which weights a relationship between ~~classes~~ components obtained by the inference based on the multivalued logic and a hierarchical structure.

13. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 11, wherein in the inference unit, a new ~~class~~ component is generated when the new ~~class~~ component can be generated to associate ~~classes~~ components by the inference, and is associated with another ~~class~~ components so that ~~knowledge~~ the new component's information can be structured.

14. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 11, wherein in the inference unit, a temporal inference on a ~~knowledge~~ component information structure described in a ~~class~~ component group is conducted and a relationship between classes ~~with a change with~~ changing over time ~~of~~ with described knowledge taken into account is included in the knowledge structure.

15. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 11, wherein on a part of a user who uses the ~~knowledge~~ component information structure generated on a part of a designer, a ~~knowledge~~ component information structure designed on the part of the designer is restructured by an inference using multivalued logic according to information about the product's development code name as a super class describing the ~~knowledge~~ component information structure and a ~~class~~ component group.